

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 17 April 1953

25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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1. The following air activity was observed at Cottbus airfield from 16 February through 1 March 1953:

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16 February. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Yak-18s practiced individual take-offs in groups of two from the landing field. The landings were made on the runway. Acrobatics were observed north of Cottbus. A biplane flew circles over the field; after it landed it was taken to a hangar.

17 and 18 February. Air activity was the same as observed on 16 February.

19 February. No flying was observed.

26 through 28 February. Flight training was conducted with Yak-18s and occasionally also with a biplane.

1 March. There was no air activity.

2. 18 Yak-18s, a twin-engine plane, probably a Li-2, a biplane and a number of jet fighters were stationed at the field in the second half of February. The Yak-18s were marked by a white rudder assembly and white stripes under their wings. 1

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4. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 18 February, single-engine aircraft were observed flying individually and in formations of two, each of the two planes leading alternately. A biplane was also seen aloft. At 5 p.m., a single-engine plane practiced acrobatics. On the afternoon of 26 February, a jet plane repeatedly appeared over the town of Cottbus leaving again in the direction of the airfield. On the afternoon of 27 February, [] single-engine monoplanes fitted with radial engines between Dahlitzer Weg to the south of field and the runway. At two-minute intervals, five of these planes taxied to the runway and then repeatedly practiced take-offs. On 2 and 3 March, these planes were again seen over Cottbus. ¹ 25X1
5. In late February, a number of crates with Russian lettering were unloaded at the Cottbus freight station. The crates had the size of the superstructure of a boxcar. ²
6. Between 4 and 5 a.m. on 25 February, aircraft [] continuously flew over Cottbus. In the course of the day, flights of jet bombers three times flew over the town. Acrobatics and formation flying were practiced at the airfield. A biplane flew circles over the field. Some of the planes involved in flying took off in groups of two. At 10:45 a.m. on 26 February, four jet fighters flying at an altitude of about 800 meters over Cottbus were observed firing bursts from their weapons. On 27 February, local flying and acrobatics were practiced by Yak-18s. In the afternoon, single-engine planes fitted with radial engines practiced local flying. On 28 February, flight training began at 7:15 a.m. In the afternoon, jet fighters were observed aloft. 25X1
7. On 26 February, a sizable number of aircraft packed in crates arrived at the field. When the planes were unpacked, [] they were fitted with radial engines and were similar to the German FW-190 planes. Already on the same day, circles were flown over the field with some of these planes. ² 25X1
8. In the early afternoon of 1 March, jet fighters were circling over Cottbus and then left toward Grossenhain. At 10:30 a.m., a plane of the same type had taken off from the field. 25X1
9. On 2 March, [] Yak-18s in four open hangars of the field. A Li-2 was seen in front of a hangar, while 11 Yak-11s were parked beside the runway. Four Yak-11s circled over the field. The crews of these planes were apparently rotated after one circle had been flown. On 9 March, [] observed two Yak-11s flying in formation. ¹ On 11 March, local training flights and acrobatics were observed. 25X1
10. On 8 March, six railroad tank cars arrived at the field; five were loaded with 300 hectoliters each, while the sixth carried 630 hectoliters. In early March, 50 to 60 crates, 40 of which dating from a more recent delivery, were observed in the northeastern portion of the field. [] the new Yak-11s observed at the field had arrived in the 40 crates. Markings were being painted on some Yak-11s. 25X1
1. [] Comment. The Hq of the 1st VP Air Div and the 1st Regt of this division are stationed at Cottbus airfield. [] It is believed that initial training in formation flying and acrobatics has been completed. 25X1

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2. Comment.

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The description of the new type of plane given and the statement that it looked like a German FW-190 plane indicates that the planes newly arrived at the installation were Yak-11s. Training on this type of aircraft is probably conducted before training with MiG-15s is started.

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